Author's choice; author's choice; "Now, love; don't make a sound."

Supernatural, R, Alastair + Dean, nastiness - it's a scene from when Dean was in Hell.

He is bound, racked, hanging from a thread that impossibly doesn't break, and he is carved open, night after day after night, and Alastair kisses him with the false-dawn and makes him whole again.

The screams are constant, loud, painful. They become background noise after weeks and months of the same thing, day after day, and then, suddenly, painfully and blessedly it is silent.

Alastair caresses his face, cuts a long line on his hip and when Dean opens his mouth to scream, Alastair lays a finger over his lips.

"Hush, boy. Today we are silent." Alastair whispers this into Dean's ears and bites at Dean's earlobe, drawing blood. "Be silent, and I'll give you an hour without pain."

When Alastair resumes his carving, Dean closes his eyes as tightly as he can and bites his lip until he bleeds and he doesn't make a sound.

Alastair's patterns are loops and circles and the only angular cuts on Dean today are jagged letters that Dean has to remember how to read. (Years without words, years when Alastair spoke only in harsh tongues to him except for his continually offered promise after Dean is healed in the dawn have stripped Dean of language.)

Dean focuses, tries to, and Alastair bends him down so he can read the word on his thigh.

Dean spells it out. Says it soundlessly and then he understands what those three letters mean. Sam.

Alastair breaks into a pleased grin when Dean *screams* fury at him, and the promised hour of relief is gone.